

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 and 57-94 are pending. Claims 27-56 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-26 have been amended for readability, to broaden various aspects, and to use preferential language. New claims 57-94 have been added.

The Office Action dated September 26, 2006 alleges that the application includes claims directed to four distinct inventions:

- Group I corresponding to claims 1-26;
- Group II corresponding to claims 27-31;
- Group III corresponding to claims 32-47; and
- Group IV corresponding to claims 48-56.

Applicant elects Group I (claims 1-26) with traverse.

The election is made with traverse insofar as the Office has alleged that the inventions are related as combination and subcombinations, but has not identified which features constitute the alleged combination and subcombinations. As such, Applicant is left without sufficient information to evaluate the propriety of the restriction. In any event, claims 27-56 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for the present. Applicant reserves the right to further pursue the subject matter of these claims.

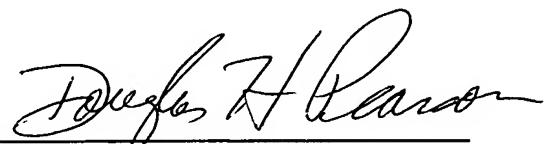
New claims 57-94 have been added to round out the scope of protection sought. It will be observed that new claims 57-75 are apparatus claims whose subject matter substantially overlaps with that of the method claims of elected Group I and that new claims 76-94 are article-of-manufacture-claims (computer readable medium) whose subject matter substantially overlaps with that of the method claims of elected Group I. Since claims 57-75 and claims 76-94 recite subject matter that substantially overlaps with the subject matter recited in the elected Group I claims, it is respectfully submitted that examination of claims 57-94 would not present an undue burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, examination of claims 1-26 and 57-94 is respectfully requested.

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Should there be any questions in connection with this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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